

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 12-17, 42-43, 48, 50-53 and 57-58 have been amended. Claim 2, 9-11 and 44-45 have been canceled. Claims 25-41 have been withdrawn. Claim 64 has been added. Claims 1, 3-8, 12-24, 42-43 and 46-64 are pending. Page 16 of the specification has been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application.

### Election/Restrictions

In response to the restriction requirement stated in the Office Action, Applicant hereby elects Group I for prosecution. Applicant requests that claims 25-41 in the non-elected group be withdrawn.

### Specification

The Office Action notified the Applicant of a typographical error in a paragraph on page 16 of the specification. Applicant has amended the paragraph to correct this error.

### Claim objections

Claims 15 and 50-52 stand rejected because of informalities. These informalities are typographical errors in the claims. Claims 15 and 50-52 have been amended to correct these informalities. Applicant respectfully requests that the claim objections be withdrawn.

### Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 2 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claim 15 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 2 has been canceled to facilitate prosecution. Applicant respectfully requests that the claim rejections be withdrawn.

Application Number: 09/895,954  
Attorney Docket Number: 150748.01

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) – Ginter et al.

Claims 1, 3-8, 12-24, 42-43 and 46-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication US 2004/0054630 to Ginter et al. (hereinafter “Ginter”). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-8, 12-24, 42-43 and 46-63 are not anticipated by Ginter.

As amended, claim 1 recites:

A method for accessing status information related to a process, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a client for status information related to the process;

identifying nodes in a network, each of the nodes executing a distributed thread of the process;

polling each identified node for status information associated with the thread executing by the node, the status information generated by a script associated with the process;

receiving the status information from each of the nodes;

storing the status information in a data structure; and

enabling the client to access the status information.

Ginter describes a system for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection. Ginter states:

The present invention provides systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection. Electronic appliances such as computers equipped in accordance with the present invention help to ensure that information is accessed and used only in authorized ways, and maintain the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of the information. Such electronic appliances provide a distributed virtual distribution environment (VDE) that may enforce a secure chain of handling and control, for example, to control and/or meter or otherwise monitor use of electronically stored or disseminated

information. Such a virtual distribution environment may be used to protect rights of various participants in electronic commerce and other electronic or electronic-facilitated transactions. Distributed and other operating systems, environments and architectures, such as, for example, those using tamper-resistant hardware-based processors, may establish security at each node. These techniques may be used to support an all-electronic information distribution, for example, utilizing the "electronic highway." (Ginter, Abstract)

Ginter describes components that communicate with one another to control and distribute content. (See Ginter, paragraph 0181). Ginter also describes the use of scripts in the operating system code for metering and transaction management. (See Ginter, paragraph 0597). However, nothing in the 184 pages of the Ginter reference describes distributing threads of a process to multiple nodes and gathering status information associated with the process from these nodes. Thus, Ginter fails to disclose or suggest identifying nodes in a network, each of the nodes executing a distributed thread of the process; polling each identified node for status information associated with the thread executing by the node, the status information generated by a script associated with the process; and receiving the status information from each of the nodes, as recited in claim 1.

Ginter also describes a polling mode in an apparatus and performing polling by a kernel/dispatcher. (See Ginter, paragraphs 0896 and 0907 and FIG. 13). However, the polling described in Ginter is performed on components within an apparatus, and not polling multiple nodes in a network for status information related to a multi-threaded process. Thus, the polling described by Ginter is not equivalent to the polling recited in claim 1.

For at least the above-identified reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Ginter and is allowable. Given that claims 3-8 and 12-24

depend from claim 1, claims 3-8 and 12-24 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

As amended, claim 42 recites:

A system comprising:

a process management system executing on a primary node in a network, the process management system configured to collect status information associated with a process, the processing management system also configured to divide the process into multiple threads and distribute the threads to multiple remote nodes in the network, the process management system further configured to receive the status information associated with the threads from each remote node and store the status information in a data structure accessible by any node with authorized access to the process management system; and

the remote nodes in the network, each remote node processing at least one of the threads associated with the process and including a script configured to provide the status information collected by the process management system.

As discussed above, Ginter describes components that communicate with one another to control and distribute content, the use of scripts in the operating system code for metering and transaction management, and polling components within an apparatus. However, nothing in Ginter describes distributing threads of a process to multiple nodes and gathering status information associated with the process from these nodes. Accordingly, Ginter fails to disclose or suggest the process management system, the remote nodes, and their interactions, as recited in claim 42.

For at least the above-identified reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claim 42 is not anticipated by Ginter and is allowable. Given that claims 43 and 46-63 depend from claim 42, claims 43 and 46-63 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

New Claims

Claim 64 has been added to the application. Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 64 is allowable for at least the same reasons presented above.

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## CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the cited references and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration of the above Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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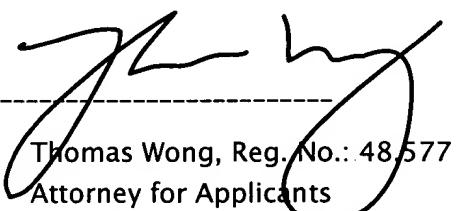
If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

Date: 5/16/2005

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Thomas Wong, Reg. No.: 48,577  
Attorney for Applicants

Direct telephone (425) 707-3591  
Microsoft Corporation  
One Microsoft Way  
Redmond WA 98052-6399

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Attorney Docket Number: 150748.01